

## **Town of Lincoln**

### **Budget Board Meeting**

**March 2, 2011**

#### **Present:**

**Linda Noble Mike Babbitt Domenic Ricci Paul DiDomenico  
Bob Turner Peter Fucci Claudette Lussier Carl Brunetti**

#### **Absent:**

**Greg Leonard Hagop Jawharjian Joe Renning**

#### **Call To Order**

**The meeting began at 7:40 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

#### **Minutes**

**The minutes of February 24th were distributed for review.**

**Peter Fucci made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to approve the minutes.**

**The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.**

#### **Correspondence**

**Correspondence was received from the Town Administrator in response to questions sent from the Budget Board regarding his recommended budget.**

**Bob Turner asked whether during last year's process the tax rate was set before or after the state's reduction of motor vehicle reimbursements.**

**The Budget Board had also questioned what resolutions the Town Administrator intended to present at the Financial Town Meeting.**

**The Administrator's response was that there would be a resolution for expansion of the library, but no others were foreseen although there would be some projects that may be completed once the balances of the Capital Reserve Fund are confirmed and the Capital Development Committee discusses them.**

**It was noted that the Budget Board should have a member attend the CDC Meetings, and it was decided that Mike Babbitt and Peter Fucci could take turns attending the monthly meetings alternately.**

**The next question that had been presented by the Budget Board was that in the budget book provided by the Town Administrator, it seems there is historical data that is not in place.**

**The Town Administrator responded by asking specifically what data was not shown, and the Budget Board will look through to find examples of missing information.**

**The Budget Board asked when the schools' audit would be ready, and the answer received was that it, along with year-to-date numbers, should be available within the week.**

**There was a State Education Aid number that the Budget Board requested backup information for to see where that estimate came from.**

**The School Department Surplus was discussed and the fact that it can be used by appropriation at Financial Town Meeting, that they cannot intentionally overspend their allocation, as well as whether surplus can be used to offset the Maintenance of Effort.**

**In other correspondence, a letter was received from Councilman John Flynn regarding the funding of pensions and the fact that the Town Council will be meeting with the Budget Board.**

**It was noted that the Town Administrator has discussed setting up a Municipal Trust to oversee post-retirement benefits.**

**Currently, funding for retirees is out of the operating budget but it was noted that as future expenses grow that will be hard to maintain which is why the trust would be set up and discussions with the Town Administrator about those liabilities would occur.**

**The Budget Board noted that retiree benefits should be shown separately in the budget, and discussed setting up a separate line for that information.**

**The Budget Board will check the actuarial report for what was required of the town in funding for the pension system for it to qualify as funded, and they discussed the disparity between that and “fully funded”.**

**The Town's pensions are approximately 90% funded currently, but that does not include all other post-retirement benefits.**

**Lastly in correspondence was a letter from Town Clerk Karen Allen requesting an additional \$10,000 in the Clerk's Office Budget for a Presidential Preference Election that will be taking place.**

### **Public Comment**

**There was none at the time**

### **Old Business**

**According to the Town Administrator's summary, Video Lottery and Meal Tax revenues are not projecting to be on target or higher than anticipated, but that could be because the payment schedule on those puts the revenues in after the posting date of 12/31.**

**Uncollectible taxes were budgeted at 4% but historically have trended 3.3% and 2.6% for the last 2 years.**

**The Budget Board would like more information on Interest on Investments.**

**There has been a decrease in Plumbing and Electrical Permit revenues because building in the town has decreased on the whole.**

**There were questions about School Operating Surplus and a transfer**

**of funds that occurred.**

**There may be a line in the budget that needs to be renamed, and they wanted an explanation of the history.**

**Equipment and Technology were put in the operating budget because they weren't considered capital improvements because they did not qualify for 30% reimbursement from the state.**

**The Budget Board discussed the Maintenance of Effort and that they will need to have a consensus and opinion of what that number should be and be in agreement with the Town Solicitor before the Financial Town Meeting.**

**The Board requested a copy of all Town contracts and which are in discussion and which are in negotiations.**

**The next meeting of the Budget Board will be Thursday, March 3rd followed by a meeting with the School Department to discuss the School Budget on Wednesday, March 9th.**

### **Public Comment**

**There was none at the time**

### **Adjourn**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Peter Fucci, to adjourn.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.**